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Report on the activities funded by the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme during the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Executive Director

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I. Introduction

1. The final budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and initial budget for the biennium 2000-2001 for the Fund of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) is presented in two reports in accordance with resolution 13 (XXXVI) of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and article X of the Financial Rules of the Fund of UNDCP. The proposed final programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed initial programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001 is presented in document E/CN.7/1999/18. The proposed final support budget for the biennium 1998-1999 and proposed initial support budget for the biennium 2000-2001 is contained in document E/CN.7/1999/17. The present document contains the report on activities undertaken during the biennium 1998-1999. The related budgetary tables are presented in the budget documents. To present the interlinkage between the programme budget and the support budget, and to avoid unnecessary repetition of information, this report is presented in one single document. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30, section III, paragraph 6, the Executive Director is also submitting to the current session of the Commission a note on the implications of instituting a results-based budget for the Fund of UNDCP (E/CN.7/1999/19).

2. During the biennium 1998-1999, emphasis was placed on increasing support to new programme activities mandated by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session, and by the Global Programme of Action adopted by the Assembly at its seventeenth special session (General Assembly resolution S-17/2, annex), as well as on the ongoing decentralization process within UNDCP and the fostering of synergies between UNDCP and the Centre for International Crime Prevention of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention of the Secretariat.

3. At its twentieth special session, the Assembly enhanced the role of UNDCP in supporting the international community in its drug control efforts. UNDCP was entrusted with additional responsibilities to assist the Commission in analysing progress made by States in fulfilling the targets that they set for themselves within a 10-year time-frame. Moreover, UNDCP was mandated to continue to provide technical advice and assistance to support States in order to enable them to achieve those objectives. Related activities of the Programme included an upgrading of the support arrangements for delivering new programme activities and increasing implementation of technical cooperation, including strengthening of support for technical cooperation.

II. Programme activities

A. General overview

4. UNDCP continued to support the Commission and Member States, through technical advice on policy development, analysis of trends in drug control and dissemination of information on those trends. It provided substantive and secretariat services to the Commission acting as preparatory body for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

5. UNDCP plays an active role in monitoring the implementation of the Global Programme of Action and the mandates emanating from the seventeenth and twentieth special sessions of the Assembly. Actions taken during the biennium 1998-1999 resulted in a better integration of projects and programme activities carried out by the field offices and in increased delivery of services to recipient countries.

6. UNDCP intensified collaboration with other entities of the United Nations system, both bilaterally and through the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), with particular emphasis on the linkages between drug control and sustainable development. In providing secretariat services to the ACC Subcommittee on Drug Control, UNDCP was instrumental in securing agency participation in the twentieth special session, promoting the inclusion of drug-related considerations in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and in the development of a strategic policy framework for coordinated inter-agency support for national implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session. It has continued to foster relations with non-governmental organizations, and has prepared an updated Directory of Non-governmental Organizations Working in Drug Demand Reduction.[1]

7. UNDCP continued to pursue joint activities with agencies in the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations and other partners, signing a memorandum of understanding with the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) and a statement of intent on future collaboration with the European Space Agency in 1998 and a memorandum of understanding with

the United Nations Volunteers in 1999. In 1999, UNDCP also became a co-sponsor of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS). UNDCP and the Inter-American Development Bank signed a cooperation agreement in 1999.

8. UNDCP developed a cooperation programme with the European Institutions in, *inter alia*, the areas of prevention and control of drug trafficking and abuse. It forged relationships with, among others, the European Parliament, the European Commission and relevant units in the secretariat of the European Union and EMCDDA to follow up activities related to mandates emanating from the twentieth special session.

9. UNDCP, at the headquarters and the field levels, participated actively in the pilot phase and in the improvement of the related guidelines of UNDAF, a key component of the reform programme of the Secretary-General for the United Nations, as well as in the common country assessment exercise. One important task of UNDAF was to address the coordinated follow-up to United Nations conferences and provide support for the implementation of United Nations conventions and declarations. In that connection, UNDCP succeeded in inserting the twentieth special session in the list of the main international conferences. Key drug control indicators were included in the list of UNDAF indicators.

10. UNDCP promoted cooperation at the subregional level under existing agreements, *inter alia* by launching activities within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) which includes the following member States: Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan). The memorandum of understanding signed with Governments of States in central Asia was expanded to include the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network, while new subregional agreements were entered into with Governments in central and south-west Asia and the Middle East and with the Southern African Development Community.

11. UNDCP prepared, coordinated and implemented a new communication strategy, including a number of initiatives in support of the outcome of the twentieth special session. The second Informal Seminar on Drug Abuse Control involving participants from the United States of America and the European Parliament was organized and hosted by UNDCP in Baden, Austria, in January 1999. UNDCP continued to support activities that promote sports against drugs, in particular with a view to expanding the new partnership between the United Nations and the International Federation of Association Football, as well as other similar cooperation initiatives in sports. Cooperation continued with the International Olympic Committee in matters relating to the involvement of sports in the prevention of drug abuse. In that connection, UNDCP participated in the IOC-sponsored World Conference on Doping in Sport, held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in February 1999. The Web site of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention was developed to include up-to-date information on both drugs and crime and provide Web users with information and links to related sites on the World Wide Web.

12. A total of 217 projects were monitored. Comprehensive drug control assistance programmes such as the business plans for Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, the programme framework for States members of ECO, the programme framework for the east-Asian States and the new priority programme matrix for Africa were designed to address the drug problem in the regions concerned.

13. Since UNDCP relies on voluntary contributions for approximately 90 per cent of its resources, it continued efforts to maintain and reinforce the relationships with traditional donors in order to secure the funding base, while attention was given to broadening the base of contributions by soliciting new donors and encouraging cost-sharing arrangements with recipient countries and partner organizations. UNDCP maintained close contacts with the donor community through, *inter alia*, the informal consultative group of Governments dealing with international drug control, known as the Dublin Group, at both the headquarters and the field level. With regard to public donations, the Aga Khan Development Network and the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a Japanese non-governmental organization, continued to provide financial support. As a result, the voluntary contributions to the Fund of UNDCP amounted to 68.5 million United States dollars ($) for the year 1998, an increase of approximately $16.3 million (31 per cent) over the total for the previous year of $52.1 million. The total voluntary contributions for the year 1999 are also expected to show a significant increase over the 1998 level.

B. Global programmes

1. Policy, legislation and advocacy

14. During the first six months of 1998, UNDCP served as the secretariat for the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, with the Commission on Narcotic Drugs functioning as the preparatory body. A wide-ranging public information campaign was led by UNDCP in cooperation with the Department of Public Information at United Nations Headquarters. The second TV World Forum was organized during the twentieth special session in cooperation with the Italian national television network. UNDP organized the celebration to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which was held at Headquarters in 1999 in cooperation with the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs and the Government of Austria. The former quarterly *UNDCP newsletter* was relaunched in autumn 1998 in a new format covering both drug control and crime prevention news.

15. UNDCP further developed its capacities in the analysis and dissemination of data and information concerning illicit drug markets and trends. As part of this effort, the preparation of in-depth country profiles began in 1999. UNDCP prepared a comprehensive publication entitled *Global Illicit Drug Trends*[2] and undertook the development of an expanded statistical database, in cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) and the Customs Cooperation Council (also known as World Customs Organization).

16. Three issues of the *Bulletin on Narcotics* have been prepared for publication during the current biennium, a special issue on rapid assessment of drug abuse and a double issue on cannabis: recent new developments. The entire collection of the *Bulletin on Narcotics* published since 1949 was made accessible through the UNDCP Web site. Work began on the preparation of the second *World Drug Report*, which should be published in June 2000.

17. To improve the availability of reliable data and information, UNDCP cooperated with a number of partners, such as EMCDDA, within the framework of a memorandum of understanding signed in March 1998, and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, for the establishment of international guidelines for estimating the socio-economic costs of drug abuse. UNDCP provided expertise and data to the secretariat of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering to assist in the newly launched initiative aimed at estimating illicit drug profits worldwide. A project entitled "Global study on illegal drug markets" started in 1998. It involves empirical research into the question of how the various economic components of illegal drug markets interact. It will examine 20 urban markets at different stages of maturity and in different regions of the world to arrive at policy recommendations designed to pre-empt or contain the expansion of the illicit drug trade.

18. UNDCP initiated the project entitled "Management of social transformations: building in a drug component", which integrates illicit drugs and their associated costs into the framework of the International Social Science Research Programme: Management of Social Transformation (MOST), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) through the establishment of a research and analysis network. The project will contribute to a better understanding of the socio-economic impact of drug trafficking and abuse in various regions and establish a network of researchers in Latin America, Asia and Africa. The outcome of the research was to be presented at a seminar in November 1999.

19. A regional project entitled "Developing social research capacities in drug control" aims at developing a network of social science researchers in States of central Europe to investigate the extent, focus and coordination of the operational activities of institutions dealing with demand reduction in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovenia. A common research instrument was developed and tested by researchers from the four States, assisted by UNDCP and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research. The results obtained by the national research teams were to be analysed during the last quarter of 1999 in Prague. The final phase of the project will then concentrate on cross-country analyses and results will be published in 2000.

20. Another regional project entitled "Operationalization of an action plan on amphetamine-type stimulants in the far-east/south-east Asia region" aims at assisting Governments in that region to put into effect the commitments that they undertook at the twentieth special session with regard to amphetamine-type stimulants. The project also contains a complementary research component covering relevant supply and demand issues related to amphetamine-type stimulants and their precursors. A meeting jointly prepared by UNDCP and the Government of Japan, to be held in Tokyo in January 2000, will review the extent of the problem in the region, the establishment of monitoring systems and successful models for the prevention of abuse of

amphetamine-type stimulants and the treatment and rehabilitation of abusers of such stimulants.

2. Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

21. A landmark achievement of the twentieth special session was the adoption of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction (General Assembly resolution S-20/3, annex). Other important events were the panel discussions on young people and drug abuse. UNDCP is placing particular emphasis on research and development focusing on patterns of and trends in drug abuse among young people, as well as on new ways of involving young people in preventive activities. One initiative was the Youth Vision Jeunesse Drug Abuse Prevention Forum, held in Banff, Canada, from 14 to 18 April 1998, in which youth from 24 countries participated. In a statement entitled "Vision from Banff", the Forum presented recommendations on how to engage young people in the implementation of innovative programmes by grass-roots organizations to reduce demand for drugs. The statement was presented to the Secretary-General, who forwarded it, with a personal letter, to all heads of State and Government. A joint UNDCP/UNESCO project to raise awareness among children and young people produced the Youth Charter for a Twenty-first Century Free of Drugs. The Charter and a report containing the testimony of young people about the drug problem have been successfully used in discussions about the problem and possible solutions in a large number of countries around the world. The Charter has so far collected more than 1 million signatures.

22. Two global model projects targeting particularly vulnerable children and young people were implemented in close cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and UNAIDS. The project "Meeting the health and development rights of young people in crisis" operated in seven States (Malawi, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Turkey and Viet Nam) and in Gaza and the West Bank, with a view to making health and education services more accessible to young people in particularly vulnerable circumstances. Through the project, concerns about drug abuse and demand have been introduced into UNICEF and UNAIDS activities in the field.

23. UNDCP supported the development of prevention and treatment projects in accordance with agreed best practice. Inter-agency cooperation within the United Nations system on both policy issues and project activities was furthered, including monitoring of agency-executed projects; cooperation with regional and non-governmental organizations was likewise enhanced. Annual reports on drug abuse patterns and trends were prepared for the Commission, and relevant parts were contributed to reports of the General Assembly and of the International Narcotics Control Board on the drug abuse situation and on measures taken by Member States to curb the demand for illicit drugs.

24. UNDCP has published guidelines for the development and implementation of drug abuse rapid situation assessments and responses[3] to facilitate their use by Governments, universities, research institutes etc. Rapid situation assessment offers a systematic way of assessing the drug abuse situation with regard to both needs and the resources required. UNDCP initiated a global programme for assessing the magnitude of drug abuse, in order to produce a better picture of the prevalence and incidence of illicit drug consumption and to improve understanding about the scale of the consequences associated with different consumption patterns. The global programme will provide support and guidance to States requesting assistance in developing drug information systems. In 1999, activities started in a number of States in south and south-west Asia, and in east and southern Africa. UNDCP will work in partnership with national Governments, regional networks and international organizations to support and facilitate the development of the capacity to gather information about drug demand.

25. A collaborative project on developing model programmes for the prevention of drug and alcohol abuse among workers and their families, involving UNDCP, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Health Organization (WHO), was piloted in Egypt, Mexico, Namibia, Poland and Sri Lanka, completed and evaluated. A total of 38 major enterprises with a large number of workers and representing various sectors, including agriculture, manufacturing and banking, participated in the project. The project demonstrated that investing in drug abuse prevention at the workplace resulted in not only reduction of abuse, but also improved quality of work, reduction in absenteeism and work-related accidents and a higher quality of life for workers and their families.

26. UNDCP cooperated with ILO in convening the Fourth International Private Sector Conference on Drugs in the Workplace and the Community, held in Sundsvall, Sweden, from 9 to 12 May 1999. In organizing the Conference, significant financial and organizational support was given by the municipality of Sundsvall. Approximately 200 representatives of European business, Governments,

trade unions and community groups participated in the Conference, which provided an opportunity to create a network of business partners and community leaders to promote drug and alcohol prevention programmes.

27. UNDCP has continued its collaboration with WHO and EMCDDA in a model project focusing on the costs and effects of treatment for disorders relating to substance abuse. After receiving training in the use of a series of evaluation workbooks, researchers, health-care professionals and managers of treatment programmes in Brazil, Bulgaria, Colombia, Ireland, Italy, Spain, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania have carried out pilot studies on treatment evaluation. This model project has produced guidelines for treatment evaluation, as well as evaluation results from a variety of treatment services representing different methodologies and regions of the world.

3. Elimination of illicit crops

28. At the twentieth special session, through the endorsement of the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development (General Assembly resolution S-20/4 E), the role of alternative development was recognized as an effective instrument for eliminating illicit cultivation of narcotic crops. UNDCP continued to provide technical support to alternative development projects and programmes, including the monitoring of activities in all the regions concerned, for example, in Latin America and south-west and south-east Asia. As part of the follow-up to the twentieth special session and the Action Plan, UNDCP established an illicit crops monitoring programme in 1999. Emphasis was placed on six priority countries (Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Peru) in providing technical advice for the strengthening of national monitoring systems and establishing a global database for the monitoring of illicit crops. Together with the Office for Outer Space Affairs of the Secretariat, UNDCP established an independent expert panel that will validate the survey methodologies being developed, in close cooperation with the European Space Agency, for the illicit crops monitoring programme.

29. The need to establish baseline data for monitoring by management, to select measurable achievement indicators and to ensure gender mainstreaming was taken into account in new projects and programmes in Bolivia, Colombia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Peru.

4. Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

30. UNDCP designed and provided technical support to national drug-testing laboratories and law enforcement agencies in operational activities undertaken to prevent the processing, trafficking and illicit production of drugs of abuse. Its support included the provision of training, quality assurance and assistance in the harmonization of methods and procedures for the identification and analysis of drugs of abuse, including drug impurity profiling. Other activities included the establishment or strengthening of 40 drug-testing laboratories in 25 countries; the production and distribution, to law enforcement agencies in 35 countries, of 600 kits for the field testing of drugs and precursors; and, the training of 62 drug analysts from 40 countries in special topics, such as drug impurity profiling, and in methods of identification and analysis of drugs contained in seized material and biological specimens. UNDCP also provided drug-testing laboratories with information on recommended methods of testing and with reference samples of substances for comparative analysis and for their activities under the quality assurance programme. It convened and serviced an expert group meeting, held in Tokyo, on profiling and characterization of methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type stimulants, and another meeting, held in London, to review methods of identification and analysis of amphetamine-type stimulants and their ring-substituted analogues in seized material. It convened four meetings of heads of laboratories and law enforcement officials in the following States: Pakistan; Lithuania, for the Baltic States; Turkmenistan, for the central Asian States; and Sri Lanka for the States members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

C. Regional and national programmes

1. Sub-Saharan Africa

Overview

31. UNDCP, in close cooperation with the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Commission for East African Cooperation (EAC), [illegible] was endorsed by the Commission on Narcotic Drug[illegible]s forty-second session. The matrix provides a framework for achieving common objectives in drug control under five programmes that are adapted to the different needs of, and the specific situation in, each subregion of Africa. Two new five-year pro-

West Africa and Nigeria were developed under this framework. UNDCP succeeded in completing 15 projects that had encountered implementation difficulties. In addition, 20 projects were formulated mainly for east and southern Africa, 12 of which started during the biennium 1998-1999. Another 10 projects, mostly regional, were formulated, and will be implemented during the biennium 2000-2001. The development of new multiyear programmes for east and southern Africa, to be presented in the year 2000, also started in both regions.

Policy, legislation and advocacy

32. Several advocacy-related activities were accomplished. Foremost was the publication of the study entitled *The Drug Nexus in Africa*,[4] which underscored the link between drug abuse and trafficking, on the one hand, and poverty, good governance and conflicts that currently besiege the region, on the other.

33. In April 1999, UNDCP signed and began to implement a memorandum of understanding with SADC, providing for cooperation between UNDCP and SADC in specific areas of drug control. Consultations between UNDCP field representatives and regional and national authorities aimed at reaching agreement on key components to be included in UNDCP intervention in the subregion over the next five years have been held on a regular basis, and were to be concluded in 1999.

34. Through the cooperation between UNDCP and OAU, a drug focal point was established in the secretariat of OAU in 1998. The focal point has actively mainstreamed drug issues at the annual meetings of the OAU Labour and Social Affairs Commission, and has since 1999 been cooperating closely with African regional economic communities in the implementation of their action plans for drug control.

35. The project to assist west African States in strengthening their drug control institutions and capacities ended in 1999. It contributed to the establishment of both a drug control unit in the secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and a coordinating body for drug control in each of the 16 States members of ECOWAS, promoted the development of national drug control action plans or master plans, and provided training, advisory services and minimum equipment for national drug control bodies. To sustain the project achievements, UNDCP has developed five-year programmes for west Africa, including Nigeria, totalling over $14 million. The programmes are to start in the early part of the biennium 2000-2001.

Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

36. In east Africa, new demand reduction projects with particular emphasis on the prevention of drug abuse in schools and among youth were started in Kenya and Madagascar. Whereas in Kenya the prevention activities were carried out through the World Organization of the Scout Movement and the family life programmes of the United Nations Population Fund, in Madagascar the project used an innovative approach based on the concept of sports against drugs. A project involving regional non-governmental organizations provided advisory services and training to several non-governmental organizations and community-based organizations in 20 countries in eastern and southern Africa, and produced a counselling guide for health specialists in English, French and Swahili. The successful completion of the project in 1999 led to plans for an extension of its activities, which were submitted for funding in late 1999. Several other new projects were identified and formulated, mainly aimed at improving the information and knowledge base concerning the extent and patterns of drug abuse in the subregion, as well as at creating a framework for subregional networking among non-governmental organizations.

37. In southern Africa, a demand reduction project to create 10 community centres for counselling, treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers in the most impoverished parts of southern Africa was launched in 1999. This includes the upgrading of two centres in Soweto, training of staff and the provision of the minimum necessary equipment. In west Africa, the project to strengthen the capacity of non-governmental organizations involved in the prevention of drug abuse ended in late 1998, and a new demand reduction project involving Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal was started.

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

38. Two regional UNDCP-initiated projects carried out in cooperation with the World Customs Organization in east and southern Africa resulted in improved communication between regional law enforcement authorities in dealing with drug seizures, arrests and investigations. It led to faster and better communications between east African law enforcement authorities and with law enforcement authorities outside the region, mainly European customs services. Specialized port drug control teams that were established, trained and equipped in east African ports

under the regional seaport control project have started to develop and apply container profiling techniques that have already resulted in major seizures of contraband.

39. The regional law enforcement training project completed in 1999 provided basic training in the identification and investigation of drugs, as well as advanced and specialized training for border, airport and seaport control, to more than 100 enforcement officers mainly from Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and from Indian Ocean islands. The regional sniffer dog project also ended in 1999, with a drug detection capacity established at the airports of Nairobi, Entebbe (Uganda), Dar-es-Salaam (United Republic of Tanzania) and Lusaka. A four-year project on judicial training in drug-related casework, with a total budget of close to $3 million, started in 1999. The project will strengthen the judicial and prosecutorial capacity of 19 countries in east and southern Africa and support subregional cooperation in legislation, through training of judicial officers, prosecutors, investigators and others involved in the judicial process.

Field offices

40. The Regional Office for Eastern Africa in Nairobi continued to focus on capacity-building at national and intercountry levels. Emphasis was placed on providing technical assistance to Member States on demand and supply reduction and legislative issues, including the development of master plans. An important area of activity was the assessment of drug control needs across countries and sectors, as well as furthering cooperation with regional and subregional organizations such as EAC, OAU and SADC. The Office maintains a resource centre that receives several hundred visitors annually, provides drug abuse prevention information to teachers, social workers and non-governmental organizations, and issues the the newsletter *Drug Forum*.

41. The Regional Office for West and Central Africa in Dakar focused its work on the preparation of two comprehensive regional programmes, one for west Africa (1999-2003) and the other for central Africa (2000-2003). The programmes will assist Governments in further developing and enhancing their capacity to adhere to the international drug control treaties. The Office provided advisory services to Governments to promote the harmonization of legislation, the launching of national master plans and the sharing of information on drug control, and supported non-governmental organizations in demand reduction activities. Advocacy focused on mobilizing non-governmental organizations, the private sector, religious institutions and other parts of civil society in the field of drug control. The Office provided cooperation to 13 ongoing projects and initiated 6 project proposals.

42. In 1999, the Country Office in Lagos, Nigeria, prepared the draft integrated drug control programme for Nigeria, for the period 1999-2001, on the basis of the national master plan drawn up by the Government with the assistance of UNDCP. It participated in the high-level fact-finding expert mission undertaken by Nigeria, the United States and the European Union to identify ways and means to assist the Government of Nigeria in implementing the integrated programme. It strengthened relations with the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency and the Office of the Special Adviser to the President, as well as with key players in the donor community. It also intensified contacts and initiated activities with the civil society, the media, drug-free clubs at schools and universities and drug abuse control committees at state and local government levels.

43. The Regional Office for Southern Africa in Pretoria became operational in late 1998. The activities of the Office were focused on the development of capacity-building programmes for countries of the region, programmes related to the implementation of the Protocol against Illicit Drug Trafficking of SADC and programmes to foster increased cooperation between law enforcement agencies in the region through the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Agency. It supported a total of 13 ongoing projects. The advocacy activities of the Office included the launching of, and support for, a major campaign to raise funds for improved demand reduction in South Africa. It published its first quarterly newsletter in August 1999.

2. North Africa and the Middle East

Overview

44. In the Middle East, UNDCP focused its efforts on providing support to Governments in the region and in promoting subregional cooperation in the context of drug control. Projects were implemented in Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia and the Palestinian Autonomous Areas. In Egypt, UNDCP promoted measures to ensure the rapid assessment of drug abuse.

Policy, legislation and advocacy

45. Two parallel groups of States were identified for subregional drug control cooperation, and two subregional

technical consultation meetings were held. The first meeting took place in Amman, in February 1999, and was attended by representatives of Egypt, Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority. The second consultation meeting was held in Cairo, in July 1999, and was attended by representatives of Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and the Syrian Arab Republic. A subregional drug control programme for the Middle East was approved at the second meeting, the implementation of which was to begin in 1999.

Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

46. A programme to prevent and reduce drug abuse, developed within the framework of national master plans, will be implemented in the Middle East through data collection and analysis, the use of school curricula to promote prevention of drug abuse, training of health professionals and educational programmes. At the regional level, UNDCP focused on the main urban areas where drug abuse problems are likely to be concentrated. New rapid assessments to update knowledge on the drug abuse situation are therefore planned under the multisectoral project undertaken in Lebanon and as part of the comprehensive programming efforts in Morocco.

Elimination of illicit crops

47. UNDCP continued to support measures taken in Lebanon, where it has established, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), a programme aimed at the revitalization of the Bekaa region. Also, at the request of the Moroccan authorities, UNDCP undertook a mission to Morocco in 1999 to assess awareness of the need for future cooperation in drug control.

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

48. UNDCP efforts focused on the establishment of subregional cooperation programmes at the technical level between groups of countries and territories affected by similar problems of illicit drug trafficking, including Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the areas under Palestinian jurisdiction.

49. Within the framework of subregional cooperation, training of law enforcement personnel is being conducted by the Anti-Narcotics General Administration in Cairo and Gaza. The law enforcement capacities of the Palestinian Authorities have also been strengthened through the provision of drug search equipment and laboratory equipment. In North Africa, UNDCP supported the upgrading of interdiction capacities in Tunisia by providing equipment and training to handlers of sniffer dogs. Also, three Algerian law enforcement officers were trained in advanced investigation techniques in cooperation with the Government of France. A new multisectoral project was drafted for Lebanon and a law enforcement training programme was designed for the States of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).

Field offices

50. The Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa in Cairo focused its work on strengthening the political commitment of the countries of the region to the UNDCP approach to drug control, involving subregional cooperation. That approach was also pursued through existing mechanisms such as GCC and the secretariat of the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior of the League of Arab States. The networking of non-governmental organizations was supported through the provision of expertise to regional meetings and the organization of a consultation meeting of non-governmental organizations under the auspices of UNDCP. The Regional Office organized a national conference on demand reduction in Egypt, in support of government efforts to reduce demand, and it executed three projects and monitored two agency-executed projects. Two new projects were also developed and started during the biennium, and a subregional drug control programme for the Middle East was finalized.

3. Central and eastern Europe

Overview

51. In central Europe, operations focused on developing cross-border cooperation on the basis of harmonized national drug control capacities. The UNDCP coordination mechanism continued to play a key role in efforts to coordinate strategies for cooperation among donor countries and international organizations in the field of drug control. In demand reduction, a multiphase regional programme aimed at the training of professionals in the treatment of drug abuse has been successfully completed, creating a core cadre of over 600 professionals and sustainable national training programmes.

52. Activities linked to suppression of illicit trafficking concentrated on the formulation and launching, in February 1999, of the drug law enforcement programme for south-eastern Europe undertaken jointly by UNDCP

and the European Union, through the programme Poland/Hungary Aid for the Reconstruction of the Economy (PHARE). This was the first successful attempt to link the strategies of UNDCP and the European Commission. UNDCP supported new initiatives, such as the development of systems for the analysis of criminal intelligence in drug investigations (implemented in close cooperation with the International Criminal Police Organization) and systems for profiling and tracking of sea containers. Two drug enforcement projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina were completed in 1999. They resulted in a measurable increase in seizures, participation in international investigations and the establishment of operational contacts between police forces in the two entities. A seminar on criminal intelligence analysis in support of drug investigations was held in September 1999, bringing together a panel of 10 international experts and representatives from nine States of central Europe.

Policy, legislation and advocacy

53. An important component of UNDCP activities in central and eastern Europe has been the establishment of the coordination mechanism for international drug control assistance to eastern Europe, the Baltic States and the Commonwealth of Independent States. An external evaluation confirmed the need for coordination of technical assistance projects in the foreseeable future owing to the complexity of the needs of recipient countries and the number of donors involved in the target region. The framework of the UNDCP coordination mechanism is being increasingly used in the formulation of joint strategies for UNDCP and donors and in the design and execution of technical cooperation projects and programmes. The coordination mechanism will be continued and further developed during the biennium 2000-2001.

54. In the Russian Federation, assistance was provided to support the Plan of Action for Enhancing Implementation of the Federal Drug Control Programme (1997-2000). A project entitled "Immediate technical assistance on control and prevention of drugs and related organized crime in the Russian Federation" started in October 1998.

Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

55. Technical cooperation in central Europe took place at both national and regional levels. At the national level, a rapid assessment survey of drug abuse was implemented in Croatia. It generated such interest among local and international professionals that 10,000 copies were subsequently published in the local language and in English. A project designed to support the Rindzele Rehabilitation Centre in Latvia was completed. At the subregional level, UNDCP continued to work with the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe in expanding its city network to encompass States of eastern Europe, with ILO in implementing a UNDCP-funded workplace prevention programme, and with the *Associazione Casa Familia Rosetta* in training over 400 professionals in the treatment of drug abuse.

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

56. UNDCP concentrated on the implementation of the joint UNDCP/European Union PHARE programme for strengthening drug law enforcement capacities in south-eastern Europe. The programme objectives emphasize harmonization of drug law enforcement tactics, operational techniques and information systems in the beneficiary countries. In particular, the programme focuses on the profiling of containers, which, as a means of transporting multi-ton consignments of drugs, are posing a major threat to drug law enforcement. It also devotes attention to the enhancement of criminal intelligence capacities in direct support of investigations relating to drugs and organized crime.

57. A regional UNDCP programme to strengthen capacities for the training of drug-scenting dogs was completed in the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, under the memorandum of understanding signed in Prague in October 1995. Another regional programme launched in 1999 under the memorandum of understanding is aimed at improving the capacity for cross-border cooperation in supply reduction operations, in particular those involving controlled deliveries. In the Baltic States, three national projects in support of the national drug law enforcement units have been completed.

58. In Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, UNDCP provided advanced training to customs and police authorities. In Albania, UNDCP organized training and provided basic equipment for the anti-narcotics police. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, UNDCP completed the implementation of two projects in support of the Dayton Peace Agreement. They were executed in close cooperation with the International Police Task Force and the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNDCP operations have produced concrete results in confidence-building. In April 1998, police officers from the Republika Srpska participated in a training course on

drug recognition in Mostar, in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was the first training activity sponsored by the United Nations with the participation of representatives from both entities since the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement. In May 1998, other narcotics police officers from the Republika Srpska participated in a criminal intelligence course for police from the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June 1998, the first operational planning meeting took place between police officers from the two entities on the initiative of UNDCP, and resulted in the planning and execution of a joint operation. In the summer of 1999, the training programme culminated in a simulated controlled delivery exercise between the two entities. Throughout the operation, the two police forces cooperated closely and efficiently.

Field offices

59. The Liaison Office for the Baltic States in Riga continued to work closely with representatives of donor governments and institutions based in the Baltic region and with United Nations agencies. The Office identified new technical assistance needs, assisted in the formulation of three new projects, and monitored 10 ongoing projects. Through the provision of advice and regular meetings with high-level government officials, the Office contributed to the inclusion of new drug control initiatives into national programmes.

60. The Regional Office for the Russian Federation and Belarus in Moscow started operations in July 1999. In addition to setting up its logistical base, the Office monitored two national projects and one regional project, and started the development of further national and regional programmes and projects. The Office is expanding the circle of potential donors to include the private sector and local governments in sharing the cost of its activities. It is also building contacts with other United Nations agencies and programmes presented in the Russian Federation, as well as with key players in the Government.

4. West and central Asia

Overview

61. UNDCP opened a country office in Teheran in 1999 and launched a multidisciplinary comprehensive narcotics reduction programme. Within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed between UNDCP and ECO on 15 March 1995, UNDCP initiated a project to promote coordination of drug control activities within the region. The ongoing programme for Turkey (1995-1999), which was mainly designed to strengthen national law enforcement institutions, was completed in 1999. A high-level mission to Turkey to assist in the development of a comprehensive drug control assistance programme for Turkey for the period 2000-2004 was planned for the last quarter of 1999.

62. In Pakistan, UNDCP advocacy contributed to the approval of the master plan for drug abuse control; the extension of the 1997 Commission on Narcotics Substances Act to the federally and provincially administered tribal areas; political support for the elimination of illicit opium cultivation in the Dir district in 1999; and the establishment of a provincial drug interdiction committee in the North-West Frontier Province. UNDCP launched a new three-year drug law enforcement programme, and a developed comprehensive demand reduction programme, for Pakistan.

63. On 16 January 1998, the Russian Federation and the Aga Khan Development Network joined the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation in central Asia (signed in May 1996), during its first annual review meeting. With the framework of the memorandum of understanding, several national and regional activities and projects were formulated or launched, resulting in the provision of technical assistance to all the countries concerned. Recognizing the threat posed by drug trafficking to the security of States in central Asia and to the region as a whole, UNDCP provided technical and legal assistance to the five State drug control commissions. Among the regional activities undertaken were the third Regional Workshop on Forensic Laboratories, held in Ashgabat in March 1999, and the International Law Enforcement Seminar, held in Almaty in October 1999. Projects aimed at improving border controls along the Afghan border were started in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNDCP launched a special programme to assist in the establishment of a drug enforcement agency in Tajikistan. A master plan was developed for Kazakhstan, and a regional project to control the movement of precursor chemicals was launched in central Asia.

Policy, legislation and advocacy

64. Within the framework of the memorandum of understanding signed between UNDCP and ECO on 15 March 1995, a UNDCP project was introduced to promote coordination of drug control activities within the

region, enabling ECO to monitor the implementation by its member States of the ECO plan of action on drug control.

65. At the level of international cooperation, drug control has been accepted as a cross-cutting issue in the principled common programming process for Afghanistan, adopted by the international donor community in 1998.

66. UNDCP objectives and concerns in the region remain twofold: to address large-scale illicit cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan; and to strengthen drug control capacities in countries around Afghanistan, in order to prevent the flow of illicit drugs from Afghanistan through those countries. However, while implementation of the UNDCP programme inside Afghanistan has been slow, there has been a significant increase in UNDCP activities in countries surrounding Afghanistan, namely the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. UNDCP continued to support the four-year alternative development pilot project in four target districts in Afghanistan, and formulated a new integrated drug control programme.

Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

67. In 1999, UNDCP was to implement a rapid situation assessment of drug abuse to capture the latest trends in Pakistan, the last survey having taken place in 1993. UNDCP prepared a comprehensive demand reduction programme for Pakistan that was to be launched toward the end of 1999. The programme aims at reducing drug abuse in the country, and is linked to the national master plan for drug abuse control for the period 1998-2003, which was approved in February 1999. The new programme will focus on mainstreaming and coordinating demand reduction initiatives at the federal level and on establishing a network of model treatment and rehabilitation centres within the Government and among non-governmental organizations. Preparatory activities included a rapid situation assessment of drug abuse in Pakistan; a number of specific studies on problems related to drug abuse in the country; a series of workshops involving all the major actors in the field of demand reduction in Pakistan; and the launching and evaluation of a pilot drug awareness campaign in a major city.

68. To obtain reliable and comprehensive data on the drug abuse problem in Afghanistan, UNDCP conducted initial assessments in the Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul and Qandahar provinces, as well as in refugee camps and Afghan communities in Peshawar and Quetta in Pakistan. The assessments suggest that opium, heroin and a wide range of pharmaceutical drugs, such as painkillers and tranquillizers, are increasingly being abused. An in-depth assessment of female Afghan refugee opium eaters by UNDCP revealed that over 75 per cent were polydrug abusers who used hashish or pharmaceutical substances to supplement their opium consumption. A new UNDCP integrated drug control programme for Afghanistan was developed to address the need to establish community-based capabilities on drug prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration in selected target areas in Afghanistan and in refugee camps and Afghan communities in Pakistan where there is an identifiable drug abuse problem.

Elimination of illicit crops

69. The eradication efforts in the Dir district of Pakistan, where UNDCP has been active through alternative development interventions for the past 14 years, must be termed as a major success story. Almost no poppy was harvested in 1999. The only areas in Pakistan where a substantial amount of poppy was harvested in 1999 were the non-enforced and inaccessible areas of Bajaur Agency. Opium production in Pakistan dropped from an estimated 27 tons in 1998 to 8 tons in 1999.

70. In 1999, the project in the Dir district was focused on the residual hard-core poppy-growing areas. Apart from the completion of 55 kilometres of roads foreseen in the project document, an additional 16 kilometres will be built in the main poppy-growing valley in return for a commitment by the farmers using those roads to abandon poppy-growing. With the elimination of poppy crop cultivation almost completed, the UNDCP alternative development project in the Dir district will substantially decrease during the biennium 2000-2001. In order to sustain the achievements made in poppy crop elimination, the successful UNDCP Dir district project will be followed by a long-term consolidation phase during which UNDCP will continue to play a role, financed and implemented on a cost-sharing participatory basis.

71. The pilot country programme for Afghanistan continued to be gradually built up. Activities for poppy crop reduction continued within operational constraints, focusing on rehabilitation of small irrigation systems (*karezes*), canal desalting and maintenance of canal structures, restoration of power stations, community service infrastructures such as health centres and the introduction to farmers of new and improved seeds as substitutes for opium poppy. Most of this work was undertaken in

Nangarhar province in the east, where conditions permitted sustained interventions. In Qandahar, activities were implemented more haltingly.

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

72. In 1999, UNDCP launched a new three-year drug law enforcement programme for Pakistan. The programme is part of an ongoing effort to strengthen the drug law enforcement capacity of the States surrounding Afghanistan. The programme aims at reducing drug trafficking in Pakistan and in the region, and is divided into three phases. During phase I (1 year, 1999-2000), existing cooperation between Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran is being promoted, and opportunities for cooperation with the States of the Persian Gulf are being explored. Activities at the subregional level were complemented through substantial efforts at the national level involving the strengthening of the anti-narcotics force of Pakistan and of agencies responsible for interdiction in the federally and provincially administered tribal areas. Phase I also includes measures to improve the performance of the drug-testing laboratories and to assess the scale of money-laundering. In the Islamic Republic of Iran, UNDCP support included training and the provision of technical equipment for border control and for strengthening the capacity to stop illicit trafficking from Afghanistan.

73. A memorandum of understanding was signed in Tbilisi on 10 June 1999, between Armenia, Georgia, the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNDCP on cooperation in drug control and activities against money-laundering. The memorandum of understanding will provide a political framework for a common response to the drug problem in the countries concerned, and strengthen cooperation in combating illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, as well as in drug demand reduction and action against money-laundering.

74. To address drug trafficking in Azerbaijan and strengthen drug control cooperation in the Caucasus subregion adjacent to Turkey, UNDCP has developed an umbrella cooperation programme. Regional cooperation involving ECO member States neighbouring on Afghanistan aimed at the development of mutual legal assistance; harmonization of systems for the analysis of criminal intelligence; joint training on specific investigation techniques; strengthening of controls at key border crossings and airports; and establishment of regional mechanisms for periodic consultative meetings with a view to sharing intelligence information on new trends and concealment methods used by traffickers and organizing controlled delivery operations.

Field offices

75. Because of the security situation in Afghanistan, the Country Office in that country was transferred to Islamabad. The work programme of the Office focused on monitoring, programme development, resource mobilization and advocacy. Drug control has been accepted as a cross-cutting issue within the principled common programming exercise adopted by the international community in 1998. In order to mobilize the funds required for implementation of the integrated programme for Afghanistan, resource mobilization was emphasized, including meetings with the donor community and the dissemination of press information. A total of 9 ongoing programmes were monitored and 9 project proposals prepared, including 3 subprogrammes of the integrated programme for Afghanistan. Four technical reports were produced, namely "Islamic injunctions relating to drugs", "Heroin processing in south-west Asia", a paper on alternative development and a paper on microcredit schemes.

76. The Regional Office for South-West Asia in Islamabad placed emphasis on the elaboration of a three-year comprehensive drug law enforcement programme, a drug demand reduction programme and the 5- to 10-year consolidation phase of the Dir district development project. A total of nine ongoing projects were monitored, including the Dir district development project, and six new project proposals were prepared.

77. The Country Office in Teheran was established in 1999. Its main emphasis during the first months of operation was to develop the comprehensive drug control programme that was signed by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and UNDCP in June 1999. The Office also provided monitoring and follow-up to the UNDCP subregional project undertaken by UNDCP and ECO. The Office built relationships with local authorities as well as the donor community and other United Nations entities present in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

78. The Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent focused on the elaboration of major national and regional programmes in the field of precursor control, institution-building in Tajikistan, border control in Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and assistance to the Government of Kazakhstan in the implementation of the national drug control master plan. Programmes are being developed for the Commonwealth of Independent States

and States of central Asia to enhance border controls, to promote the exchange and analysis of information, to reduce regional demand for drugs and to strengthen national drug control commissions. The Office was strengthened through the addition of a regional law enforcement adviser, a regional legal adviser and a senior programme adviser. It continued to provide support to national counterparts in defining their needs for technical assistance. The memorandum of understanding signed by the States in the region provided a framework for coordination of programmes and initiatives, although attainments so far have been modest.

5. South Asia

Overview

79. In south Asia, a major review and adjustment of overall priorities and strategic orientations was carried out. The second phase of a regional precursor control project, under way since 1995, was drawn up and was scheduled to start in 1999. Two comprehensive projects were designed for demand reduction in India and commenced in August 1999. A project to strengthen law enforcement around Myanmar is being developed, encompassing the north-eastern states of India, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Policy, legislation and advocacy

80. Assistance provided to Bangladesh and Nepal led to a substantial strengthening in their drug control capacity, although there is a need for more support. Comprehensive reports on precursor control, drug abuse and illicit trafficking in south Asia were produced in 1998. A regional workshop held in New Delhi promoted awareness among Governments of the need to counter money-laundering in south and south-west Asia.

Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

81. In India, a comprehensive package of assistance, launched in collaboration with ILO, provided 18 non-governmental organizations, in 10 different cities, with the capacity to deliver a wide range of demand reduction services, including vocational rehabilitation and social reintegration. A total of 286 staff of non-governmental organizations were trained, and they used their knowledge to improve services in India for the benefit of 25,000 recovering abusers and their families. In parallel, 12 major enterprises launched prevention programmes in collaboration with non-governmental organizations. Altogether, 442 managers, supervisors, workers' representatives and staff of non-governmental organizations were trained in various aspects of workplace prevention of drug and substance abuse. Activities aiming at reducing and preventing drug abuse among the general population, high-risk groups and drug addicts on a nationwide scale through non-governmental organizations, community-based organizations, enterprises, the Government and other United Nations agencies were initiated. Preparations for an all-India drug abuse survey were finalized.

82. In Nepal, assistance in demand reduction and law enforcement was to be completed by the end of 1999, coinciding with the completion of assistance in law enforcement, preventive education, treatment and rehabilitation to Bangladesh. In Sri Lanka, activities to strengthen demand reduction, data collection and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes were launched during the second half of 1999.

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

83. In south Asia, government awareness of the need for control of precursor chemicals was raised. Policies and legislation as well as mechanisms and procedures for the control of precursors were developed. In 1999, seizures of precursor chemicals were directly attributed to UNDCP support. Comprehensive reports on precursor control in south Asia were also produced during the biennium 1998-1999, attracting considerable media interest.

Field office

84. The Regional Office for South Asia in New Delhi prepared thematic reports for regional dissemination. A subregional cooperation framework was developed to enhance cooperation between countries of the region. Within that framework, the Office developed four programme modules to complement a regional project for precursor control. Three new projects were developed for India with an emphasis on demand reduction. A framework for the UNDCP technical assistance programme for Nepal, covering the period 2000-2003, was formulated, and three programme modules were developed. The Office developed a programme framework for future UNDCP assistance to Bangladesh, and two programme modules were formulated. It also assisted the Government of the Maldives in formulating its national drug control master plan. UNDCP approved a demand reduction project for Sri Lanka that became operational in 1999. The Office executed, supported or monitored seven ongoing projects

in the region, and it organized the Money Laundering Conference for South and South West Asia in 1998.

6. East Asia and the Pacific

Overview

85. In east Asia programme monitoring and development support was continuously provided to promote subregional cooperation under the memorandum of understanding signed in 1993 and through the subregional action plan. New initiatives in-cross border cooperation to tackle the increasing threat of amphetamine-type stimulants were developed during the biennium. UNDCP formulated a programme framework to address the drug problem in the region of south-east Asia through jointly coordinated action, in close cooperation with regional bodies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Association of South-East Asian Nations.

86. The alternative development project for the Wa region in Myanmar began in 1998. During 1999, a review of the project was carried out together with the United Nations Office for Project Services and a number of adjustments were made to ensure timely implementation. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, support was provided in drawing up new alternative development projects targeted at priority areas in the provinces of Xien Khouang, Bokeo, Oudomsai, and Houaphan, in close cooperation with other international agencies, including ADB. The political commitment shown by the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic in 1999 led to the development of a comprehensive six-year strategy to eliminate opium poppy cultivation. In Viet Nam, UNDCP began to assist the Government in reviewing the current national master plan in order to facilitate the formulation of drug control policies for the period 2000-2008.

87. On the basis of the progress made and in order to ensure the sustainability of alternative sources of income, the second phase of the alternative development project for the Ky Son district was formulated, taking into account the recommendations contained in the project evaluation. In the region of the Pacific, UNDCP provided expertise to selected States of the South Pacific in the formulation of national drug control policy.

Policy, legislation and advocacy

88. The subregional action plan covering the six signatories to the memorandum of understanding (Cambodia, China, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam) was expanded and further implemented with the launching of new projects in various sectors. Governments in the region benefited from UNDCP assistance in elaborating drug control legislation that included provisions on precursor control and against money-laundering. In May 1999, ministers from the six signatory States met with representatives of UNDCP in Vientiane to review the progress of the UNDCP-assisted subregional action plan and to agree on further joint action to reduce drug trafficking through strengthened cross-border cooperation and on a new initiative to fight the increasing abuse of amphetamine-type stimulants.

89. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the comprehensive drug control programme (equivalent to a master plan) for the period 1994-2000, developed with UNDCP assistance and including 16 projects, was largely completed in 1999. UNDCP assisted the Government in formulating a comprehensive six-year programme strategy to eliminate opium poppy cultivation. It also assisted the Government of Viet Nam in the preparation of a project aimed at further increasing its capacity to formulate and implement drug control policies within the framework of an updated national master plan for the period 2000-2008. In Fiji, in 1999, UNDCP conducted a training workshop on master plans for selected countries in the region of the Pacific, in close collaboration with the South Pacific Forum, with a view to promoting understanding of the drug problem in the region and enhancing the capacity of the Governments concerned to develop national drug control plans and strategies.

Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

90. The main activities in demand reduction were the implementation of a subregional project to develop community, national and subregional capabilities to reduce the illicit use of drugs and to deal with related social problems among selected highland ethnic minority groups, as well as prevention and community-based treatment and rehabilitation programmes at the national level.

91. In 1999, UNDCP launched a subregional project aimed at improving the capacity of governmental and non-governmental institutions to identify and deal with emerging drug abuse problems among high-risk groups in States signatory to the memorandum of understanding. Covering a wider region including south Asia, a regional training programme on rehabilitation from addiction and prevention in the workplace was developed. UNDCP collaborated with the Economic and Social Commission

for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) by integrating prevention of drug abuse, treatment and rehabilitation into a larger project, supported by ESCAP, against sexual abuse and exploitation of children and youth in the greater Mekong subregion.

92. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, a national project was launched to activate the Drug Demand Reduction Resource Centre as a focal point for coordinating and providing nationwide information and training on all subjects and work related to demand reduction. In Viet Nam, the demand reduction subprogramme under the country programme came fully into full operation, including analysis of the drug abuse situation, training for community-based treatment and rehabilitation, prevention among high-risk groups and school-based preventive education. In Myanmar, activities to reduce drug abuse and the related risk of infection with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) were commenced in Kachin State, using a community-based approach targeting high-risk groups.

93. In the region of the Pacific, assistance was provided to Papua New Guinea in undertaking a rapid assessment survey to enhance understanding of the national drug abuse situation and to provide an information base for the development of a suitable demand reduction strategy within the framework of a national plan for drug control. The result of the assessment was consolidated into a report, which was reviewed at the workshop on the master plan held in Fiji in 1999.

Elimination of illicit crops

94. UNDCP continued to support the ongoing alternative development programmes in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Viet Nam. It collaborated closely with other United Nations agencies and regional and international financial institutions, such as ADB and the International Fund for Agricultural Development, in project formulation and implementation. UNDCP also launched a major project in Myanmar. In the Lao People's Democratic Republic, increasing synergies have been witnessed in launching new alternative development projects targeted at priority areas in the provinces of Xien Khouang, Bokeo and Oudomsai, in close coordination with other international agencies. In May 1999, the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and UNDCP agreed on a strategic plan for the elimination of opium poppy cultivation within six years, which will involve the active collaboration of bilateral donors and regional and international institutions.

95. In Viet Nam, UNDCP supported the Ky Son pilot project in alternative development in the province of Nghe An bordering the Lao People's Democratic Republic, which was designed to serve as a model to be replicated in, and adapted to, other poppy cultivation areas. The strict government enforcement of the ban on poppy cultivation has successfully reduced poppy cultivation in the project area by more than 90 per cent in two years. Through a wide range of activities in community development, in agriculture and livestock and in physical infrastructure, carried out in close collaboration with other United Nations agencies, the project is accelerating its efforts to introduce alternative sources of income. In order to ensure the sustainability of the alternative development activities, the second phase of the project was formulated during 1999, taking into account the recommendations contained in the project evaluation.

96. In Myanmar, the inception phase of an alternative development project in the southern Wa region, with a total budget of $15.5 million, was started in 1998. The project is targeting a major opium-producing area in the Wa region close to China, with a view to reducing illicit cultivation of opium by 80 per cent over the five-year project period. During the biennium, baseline surveys for poppy cultivation were completed, key staff for all sectors were recruited, the first group of target villages was selected, project facilities were constructed and essential equipment was procured. UNDCP also provided support to local community-initiated opium eradication activities in the northern Wa and Kokang regions.

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

97. UNDCP continued to assist the signatories to the Memorandum of Understanding in the implementation of the three ongoing subregional law enforcement projects under the subregional action plan. UNDCP also assisted in the formulation and launching of the remaining two subregional law enforcement projects designed to strengthen judicial and prosecutorial capacity and to enhance the capacity of law enforcement agencies to gather, analyse and disseminate drug enforcement information. Two subregional law enforcement projects that had begun during the early 1990s were successfully completed during the biennium; the experience gained by those earlier projects, along the borders between China and Myanmar, and between Myanmar and Thailand, were reflected in the new

initiative developed and started in 1999 to further enhance the operational effectiveness of law enforcement agencies across and along the borders of the States signatory to the Memorandum of Understanding.

98. At the national level, UNDCP continued to assist the Governments of Viet Nam and the Lao People's Democratic Republic in the implementation of the projects aimed at strengthening the law enforcement capacity in the countries concerned, particularly border controls. The capacities of law enforcement agencies were strengthened through training, the provision of equipment and the exchange of information between countries.

99. In the region of the Pacific, a UNDCP assistance in drug law enforcement training, provided through the South Pacific Forum, was successfully completed in 1998.

Field offices

100. The Country Office in Vientiane focused on the preparation of the new opium poppy elimination programme, a balanced programme combining alternative development, community-based drug abuse control and law enforcement. The Office was active in resource mobilization with the local donor community, as well as with key external donors such as ADB and the World Bank. Through the implementation of national, regional or global projects, advice was provided on the implementation of the national drug control master plan and the improvement of the legal framework for drug control. A total of 26 ongoing projects were monitored and 12 project proposals were prepared.

101. The Country Office in Yangon continued to improve advocacy activities with the Government, donors and agencies of the United Nations system, including the promotion of inter-agency coordination. It made additional initiatives relating to alternative development and demand reduction programmes in specific areas of the country. The Office worked with non-governmental organizations and government departments to build on existing activities. It provided training and training materials to groups and agencies involved in grass-roots teaching on the dangers of drugs and HIV/AIDS, and supported ongoing activities in the education and training. In total, five ongoing projects were monitored, including projects designed to reduce subregional supply and demand in the border areas between China and Myanmar and between Thailand and Myanmar.

102. The Regional Centre for South-East Asia in Bangkok facilitated cooperation and collaboration among the signatories to the memorandum of understanding on drug control. The Centre formulated and launched subregional projects to support drug control and prevention in the region. Technical advisory assistance was provided to Governments and non-governmental organizations. Assistance was provided to the Government of Indonesia in the development of its national drug control master plan, and several workshops and seminars on various aspects of drug control and on the issue of drugs and HIV/AIDS were organized within the region. Increased contacts were made with the local donor community and with other regional institutions, such as ADB and ASEAN. The Centre monitored a total of 21 ongoing projects and prepared two integrated programmes and 10 project proposals.

103. The Country Office in Hanoi prepared three integrated programmes, elaborated four projects and monitored a total of eight ongoing projects. The Office assisted in the activities related to the memorandum of understanding on drug control. It enlarged the scope of its activities with the donor community and organized eight visits to project sites for donors and media representatives. It assisted the Government in implementing the national drug control master plan through regular advisory meetings with relevant government authorities.

7. Latin America and the Caribbean

Overview

104. UNDCP elaborated three business plans, one each for Bolivia, Colombia and Peru, aimed at the elimination of illicit drug crops through alternative development. Drawn up jointly with the respective governments, the plans respond to the commitment made at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of coca, cannabis and opium poppy by the year 2008. The business plans, covering the period 1998-2003, comprise 20 projects, of which 12 started in 1999. In addition, national and subregional programmes for the prevention of drug abuse were launched or continued in the regions of the Caribbean and Central America, as well as in most countries of South America. In Brazil, UNDCP started the second phase of a large-scale HIV/AIDS prevention programme dealing with intravenous drug abuse. Epidemiological surveillance and information systems concerned with drug abuse were harmonized across several countries to produce comparable data. Law enforcement agencies were upgraded

throughout the region. Bolivia, Brazil and Colombia received specialized support in precursor control, and a major law enforcement programme was started in Brazil to modernize training of federal and state police and to create a national information system concerned with public security. In the Caribbean, a system was put in place to train practising lawyers in the prosecution and adjudication of drug offences, and to train personnel on board ships and in port areas in detecting illicit drugs.

105. UNDCP continued to coordinate the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action for Drug Control Coordination and Cooperation in the Caribbean, and to support selected Governments in the elaboration of national drug control plans.

Policy, legislation and advocacy

106. UNDCP executed projects to upgrade the technical, managerial and advocacy functions of national drug control commissions in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia and Peru. In all cases, special emphasis was placed on better formulation of drug control policy and coordination among ministries within the countries concerned, as well as coordination with bilateral and multilateral cooperation agencies. UNDCP assisted the National Drug Control Council of Bolivia in the formulation of strategy and the preparation of documents for the meeting of the Paris Consultative Group, held in June 1999, which, for the first time, featured drug control as a national development priority. It supported the National Narcotics Directorate of Colombia in the decentralization of the national drug control plan at regional and departmental levels. It also supported the Comisión de la Lucha contra el Consumo de Drogas (CONTRADROGAS) (national drug coordinating body established to implement the national drug control plan) of Peru in holding an international donors conference in November 1998 to raise funds for alternative development and demand reduction, and in opening offices in the coca-growing regions of the country to ensure better coordination of alternative development projects. It also supported the newly created National Anti-drug Secretariat in Brazil, through the production of a national family guide on drug abuse prevention. In Bolivia, UNDCP funded a series of workshops aimed at developing new incentives for increased participation of the private sector in alternative development.

107. In Central America, UNDCP and the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD) of the Organization of American States worked with El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua to elaborate national drug control plans. Special assistance was provided to Haiti to improve national legislation on, and the planning of strategy for, drug control. The UNDCP-supported Caribbean coordination mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the 1996 Barbados Plan of Action continued to produce information and analytical studies on the drug situation in the region and on external funding flows for drug control.

Prevention and reduction of drug abuse

108. In Peru, UNDCP and the Ministry of Education executed an integrated drug abuse prevention programme for primary schools. Some 362 teachers were trained in primary prevention, to the benefit of 230 schools and 150,000 pupils. Significantly, under the project the first drug abuse survey ever conducted in Peru was carried out, involving 59 primary schools in 17 cities. Under another UNDCP project executed by local non-governmental organizations, some 1,300 children and adolescents at risk in marginal urban areas of Lima received attention and were dealt with by drug abuse referral services.

109. In Bolivia, a project, jointly implemented by UNDCP and UNICEF supported the establishment of 130 offices of municipal ombudsmen to promote and protect the rights of children and adolescents, as well as to offer counselling on matters relating to drug abuse. UNDCP also assisted in a national school-based programme of preventive education, reaching 24,500 students, teachers and parents' associations, on the subject of drug abuse prevention, drug resistance techniques and healthy lifestyles.

110. In Brazil, the first phase of a drug abuse prevention project with emphasis on HIV/AIDS was completed in 1999. Executed by the Ministry of Health, the project supported 67 governmental and non-governmental institutions active in the health sector throughout most of the country in producing relevant baseline data, in training health officials and social workers, and in research activities. Through hundreds of community-based drug prevention initiatives, the project directly reached some 50,000 children, adolescents, prison inmates, sex workers and drug users. With regard to treatment, 9,000 drug users, including injecting drug users, and their family members were dealt with under the project. In view of the dimensions of the HIV/AIDS problem in Brazil and its association with intravenous drug abuse, a second phase of the project was formulated, involving UNDCP support, together with that of the World Bank to the Brazilian

National Programme for the Control and Prevention of AIDS. The second phase will cost an estimated $33 million, including a cost-sharing contribution of $30.5 million provided by the Government of Brazil. The project started operations in 1999.

111. In Colombia, four projects aimed at the prevention of drug abuse were completed in late 1999. Under those projects, UNDCP assisted municipalities and non-governmental organizations in major Colombian cities in setting up 23 youth houses offering educational and cultural activities, as well as referral services, for a total of 55,000 youths at risk of drug abuse; training community-based family counsellors in marginal city areas on techniques for the prevention of drug abuse; developing and disseminating information on drug resistance campaigns using television, radio and the print media; using community-based organizations to promote healthy lifestyles; training 100 prison staff members and implementing primary prevention modules in 19 Colombian prisons, reaching 6,000 inmates; establishing epidemiological surveillance systems in 11 prisons; establishing epidemiological surveillance systems in six cities; providing equipment for the collection of data on drug abuse and software to 16 health institutions, including training; and setting up committees for the prevention of drug abuse in six cities, including the formulation of operational plans and communication strategies. Under a new project started in early 1999, UNDCP is helping the National Narcotics Directorate to decentralize and spread across the country key functions and responsibilities set forth in the 1998 national drug control plan.

112. At the subregional level, UNDCP was instrumental in promoting common methods and standards for epidemiological surveillance under a project based on the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation signed by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and UNDCP. As a result, the five States have established drug abuse information systems allowing for cross-country comparison of prevalence, incidence and trends. The system incorporates the standards adopted for the region by CICAD. UNDCP also offered partial support for nationwide household surveys on drug abuse in each of the participating countries, the first survey of its kind in most of the countries concerned. The project was finalized in late 1999, and a second phase of the project was elaborated by the national authorities.

113. In the region of Mexico and Central America, UNDCP promoted practical linkages among governmental and non-governmental organizations devoted to the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, a key role being played by non-governmental organizations in Mexico with a track record of excellence in their field of expertise. In the Caribbean, a subregional train-the-trainers programme on the prevention of drug abuse was supported by UNDCP and other United Nations agencies under the 1998 Health and Family Life Education Programme of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). Some 86 social workers and doctors in the health, education and social services received training under that initiative.

Elimination of illicit crops

114. The governments of Bolivia, Colombia and Peru developed, together with UNDCP, three business plans for the elimination of illicit drug crops through alternative development, collectively estimated to cost approximately $183 million over the period 1999-2003. The plans respond to the commitment made by governments at the twentieth special session to eliminate or significantly reduce the illicit cultivation of coca, cannabis and opium poppy by the year 2008. They embody over a decade of field experience on the subject, and propose actions that take into account country-specific legal, cultural and developmental conditions. The plans stress the interaction that must be achieved between alternative development, eradication and law enforcement measures to counter the illicit cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs.

115. The three plans account for all of UNDCP work in alternative development in the region. The plan for Bolivia comprises three projects worth $64 million. The plan for Colombia is made up of seven projects amounting to $73 million, and the plan for Peru entails eight projects totalling $46 million. About $28 million was raised for the business plans, enough to start 12 of the 18 projects. That has increased UNDCP budget allocations for alternative development in the Andean region from $4.1 million in mid-1998 to $13.8 in mid-1999. Fund-raising efforts are under way to secure the remaining $155 million for full execution of current plans by the year 2003.

116. During the biennium 1998-1999, UNDCP alternative development programmes in the Andean region led to the reduction of 9,500 hectares of coca. More importantly, the projects prepared the ground for further reductions in the future. Combining all UNDCP projects, some 13,800 farm families, or 69,000 people, obtained technical assistance, rural infrastructure and social services aimed at reducing their dependence on income from illicit crops and creating

opportunities to earn a legal income. The results achieved in specific UNDCP project areas, although small in absolute terms, are a reminder that farmers choose legal activities whenever given a chance.

117. Under the business plan for Peru, investments for alternative development more than quintupled, so that they currently cover the following four major coca-growing areas: the Apurimac valley, the Lower Huallaga, the Pichis-Palcazú valleys (known as the Selva Central) and the Inambari and Tambopata valleys (known as the Puno Selva). The projects introduced technological improvements for traditional crops such as coffee and cacao, as well as business-oriented management practices for agro-industrial enterprises, including palm oil and palm-heart. UNDCP supported other national and bilateral projects aimed at improving rural infrastructure, especially feeder roads to markets.

118. In the Apurimac valley, the four-year strategic orientation phase ended in late 1998. Benefiting directly some 1,500 families (7,500 people), the project enabled the farmers to increase the area devoted to licit products as well as their productivity. Among beneficiaries, coca cultivation dropped by 75 per cent from 1,034 hectares in 1995 to 376 hectares in 1998. With regard to the Apurimac valley as a whole, where UNDCP works with other national and bilateral partners, aerial photographs show a reduction of 8,000 hectares of coca (from 32,500 hectares in 1995 to 24,500 hectares in late 1998). Equally important, of the remaining 24,500 hectares, about two thirds are abandoned coca fields. Coca reduction is attributable mainly to prices paid for coca, which have been low or unpredictable, but also to alternative development and the prospect of increased investments in the future.

119. Under the Bolivia business plan, the Chapare agroforestry programme was enlarged and currently works with more than 750 farm families (3,750 people) on products such as timber, palm-heart, oranges, passion fruit, rubber and bananas. Environmentally sound and sustainable agroforestry management plans and practices were introduced through the project training programme targeting 3,500 farmers, agricultural workers, technicians, students and specialized staff of non-governmental organizations. The project established diversified agroforestry systems on over 500 hectares of land for training and research. Further, eight forestry management plans were developed and introduced in support of new environmental protection laws in Bolivia. The project is helping Bolivia to meet ecological certification requirements for export of wood and other products into the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland as well as other countries of the European Union. An external project evaluation carried out in June 1999 confirmed the successful implementation of the project, which has led to a reduction of 1,591 hectares of coca, and which should be followed up by an expansion of the project in order to increase the number of beneficiaries and to optimize the cost-benefit ratio. Throughout the Chapare, UNDCP has contributed to an increase in the total area of land devoted to legal production by 20,000 hectares to the current level of 105,000 hectares.

120. Under the Colombia business plan, emphasis was placed on developing regional development plans and conducting commercial feasibility studies for specific products, such as organic coffee, beans, corn, rubber, fruit and fish, as well as cattle-breeding, through the National Alternative Development Plan (PLANTE). Moreover, UNDCP supported the agricultural extension services of 53 PLANTE technicians for 3,300 farm families in the departments of Meta, Bolivar, Caqueta, Cauca, Guaviare, Nariño and Putumayo. Fifteen farmers' associations received credits to collect and sell their cash crops. Five enterprises combining private and public funds were established to promote selected agro-industries with proven markets. Two new projects under the business plan, entitled "Alternative development for Meta-Caqueta" and "Integrated system for monitoring of illicit crop cultivation", were developed and started operation in the second half of 1999. It is too early for those projects to post results. Work started on the development of a third project under the business plan, intended to address the environmental degradation left behind by opium poppy cultivation.

Suppression of illicit drug trafficking

121. UNDCP provided support to law enforcement agencies (police, customs and judiciary and forensic laboratories) in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico and Central America and the Caribbean region. In Bolivia, precursor seizures have increased. UNDCP trained over 500 personnel from law enforcement agencies and enterprises in the private sector to detect and report the diversion of precursors. The national database on precursor chemicals was updated and currently includes 3,000 companies. Project results will be consolidated and expanded in a subsequent phase elaborated in late 1999, aimed at establishing an integrated information system for

controlled substances throughout Bolivia, including the setting-up of five new substance control branches.

122. In Brazil, implementation of the $24 million law enforcement programme, under a cost-sharing arrangement with the Government of Brazil, started slowly because of the effects of the financial crisis that struck the country in early 1999. Nevertheless, by mid-1999 the project was posting its first significant results. Under the programme component for federal and state police training, the curricula, training courses and teaching aids were revised and upgraded. The precursor control component delivered four regional courses for hundreds of Brazilian law enforcement agents on the use, misuse and diversion of precursor chemicals into drug laboratories. Forensic laboratories were upgraded or established to analyse drugs and precursors. Amendments were drafted to strengthen Brazilian legislation on the subject of precursor control, including the addition of new substances subject to control. The law enforcement programme actively promotes cooperation in training and related matters among Brazilian officers and their counterparts in Europe (so far, the judicial police in France and Spain and the Bundeskriminalamt and selected Landespolizei in Germany), the United States of America (the Federal Bureau of Investigation) and Canada (the Royal Canadian Mounted Police). During the biennium, the programme started work on the new national information system dealing with public security (known as InfoSeg).

123. In Colombia, under the UNDCP project entitled "Public Prosecutor Forensic Laboratory", 5,000 police officials, judges, prosecutors and other people were trained in the use of standard methods of analysis of drugs and precursors. Under the UNDCP law enforcement programme in Ecuador, the drug detector canine centre in Quito and the seven canine units at the international airports of Quito and Guayaquil were upgraded. Eighteen dog teams were trained in aggressive and passive search techniques. Drug law enforcement agents were trained in intelligence techniques, precursor control, analysis and identification of drugs and management of drug law enforcement units. The record seizure, in March 1999, of over 3 tons of Colombian cocaine and cannabis destined for Bulgaria was carried out in part by personnel trained under the UNDCP project. The project promoted Ecuadorian cross-border cooperation with Colombian police in the context of training courses and real case work. At the subregional level, advanced courses on the gathering of drug intelligence and money-laundering techniques were carried out for over 100 police personnel, custom officials, judges, prosecutors and banking and tax collection officials under the memorandum of understanding on subregional drug control cooperation signed by Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and UNDCP.

124. In the Caribbean, UNDCP trained judicial and law enforcement personnel to improve the prosecution and adjudication of drug offences and post-conviction asset forfeiture procedures. Some 147 judges, 12 attorneys-general, 144 magistrates, 75 senior prosecutors and financial investigators and a total of 106 police prosecutors from 18 Caribbean States were trained during regional judicial symposia and training workshops held in 1998 and 1999 in several Caribbean countries. As a result of the project, the administration of drug-related justice was improved and acknowledged within and outside the region at high political, judicial and prosecutorial levels. Further, a mechanism is currently in place to ensure a long-term sustained regional capacity in drug control training for new practising lawyers, as well as the continuing education of judges and magistrates. Through the project, Caribbean States recommended the establishment of a regional judicial education institute and the elaboration of a Caribbean Mutual legal assistance treaty. The first draft of the treaty was reviewed at the meeting of CARICOM Law Ministers held in late 1999.

125. In support of the Barbados Plan of Action, UNDCP and the International Maritime Organization developed a training programme to prevent and combat illicit drug trafficking on board ships and in port areas. The programme was tested in Jamaica in June/July 1999 by 57 officials from customs administrations, port authorities and shipping associations in 19 countries. On the basis of the test results, the programme was amended and translated into other languages for use in all countries. The Barbados Plan of Action project to establish a regional customs clearance system started in 1998. Country assessments have been carried out so far in Anguilla, the British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Saint Martin and the French overseas territories. The managers of the customs administration in countries selected for the implementation of the first phase of the regional customs clearance system received training in the gathering of intelligence and data. Three maritime training exercises involving 18 countries and coast guards of the Netherlands, France, the United Kingdom and the United States were held to improve methods for tracking suspect vessel movements and encourage multi-agency enforcement cooperation. However, the project suffered delays in identifying software packages capable of supporting the intelligence component of the system.

126. Under the subregional forensic laboratory programmes for the Caribbean, Mexico and Central America, UNDCP provided equipment to analyse drugs and precursors, fellowships to train laboratory personnel and training courses to upgrade laboratory services. The heads of forensic laboratories met in Barbados in May 1999 to improve intercountry cooperation at the technical level.

Field offices

127. The Regional Office for the Caribbean in Bridgetown supported the implementation at the national and international level of the Barbados Plan of Action by functioning as a source of information and technical assistance; serving as a clearing house for information and for regional as well as international liaison; and continuing to mobilize support for the Plan and promoting the support of civil society for drug control efforts. A memorandum of understanding was signed with the Caribbean Development Bank, outlining areas of cooperation in the region. Efforts to build alliances with civil society are expanding, and a major media event was launched in 1999 to introduce the "Cricketers against Drugs" initiative involving teams from the region and beyond, with the full backing of legendary figures in the sport. The Regional Office continued to support the Caribbean drug control coordination mechanism. A total of 29 ongoing projects was monitored.

128. The Country Office in La Paz increased the volume of UNDCP technical cooperation in that country by more than 120 per cent, as compared with 1998. During the biennium, it elaborated a new country programme, for the period 1998-2002, in support of the national project known as the "Dignity plan", the business plan for alternative development, for the period 1998-2002, as well as 12 project proposals within the priorities established in the country programme and the business plan. The Office took part in the elaboration of a major United Nations inter-agency project to support municipal development. A total of 11 projects were supported and monitored. The Office, as coordinator of the local group working on the "Dignity plan", organized and participated in 24 meetings with the donor community and organized six events for project fund-raising in collaboration with the Government. In addition, it provided advice on a continuing basis to the Government in implementing the national drug control master plan, and established and maintained the Country Office drug control database.

129. The Country Office in Brasilia undertook fund-raising efforts with both the donor community and local private companies or government institutions, while concentrating on the implementation of an enlarged portfolio of projects. The Office reorganized the data bank system and prepared the document reference system. The two systems have improved both the access to information by a broad range of users and the usefulness of the information provided. The Office supported the National Anti-Drug Secretariat (SENAD) in drawing up sector plans and the national drug control master plan. It prepared two integrated programmes for demand reduction and control measures; eight projects, including the continuation of the project aimed at the prevention of drug abuse and AIDS; a project in the law enforcement sector; and measures to promote social mobilization and institutional support to SENAD.

130. The Country Office in Bogotá emphasized the development of comprehensive UNDCP cooperation programmes for Colombia and Ecuador, in addition to the business plan for the elimination of illicit drug crops through alternative development in Colombia. The Office acted as a facilitator in drafting the new national drug control master plans of the two countries, and the UNDCP programmes increasingly dealt with institution-building and improvement of the capacities of the counterpart institutions. While maintaining a balance between the three main sectors of the programme for Colombia, that is, alternative development, drug control measures and prevention of drug abuse, special emphasis was given to alternative development, thereby helping to create favourable conditions for the peace process in the country.

131. The Regional Office for Central America and Mexico in Mexico City supported the elaboration and implementation of the subregional programme for the period 1998-2002. It participated in, and collaborated in the organization of, 45 workshops to support the development of national drug control master plans, and provided relevant advisory services. The Office also participated in, and provided advice to, 31 regional meetings within the framework of the subregional memorandum of understanding signed by Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama and UNDCP in May 1996. It strengthened collaboration with United Nations inter-agency groups and advocacy activities in all countries of the region. In total, eight ongoing projects were monitored, and 17 new projects developed.

132. The Country Office in Lima tripled its programme activities, in monetary terms, as compared with the previous biennium. The portfolio has moved to a more

balanced programme approach focusing not only on the elimination of illicit crops, but also on the prevention and reduction of drug abuse, as well as the strengthening of national drug control entities. Together with the Government, the Office elaborated a business plan outlining a strategy designed to achieve a significant reduction in illicit crops in Peru by the year 2003 and full elimination of coca bush production for illicit purposes by 2008, in accordance with the targets set at the twentieth special session. The Office was responsible for the implementation of 9 ongoing projects. It assisted CONTRADROGAS in the preparation and organization of the meeting of the donor consultative group on alternative development and drug demand reduction held in Brussels in 1998. A follow-up meeting was organized in Paris in late 1999.

III. Administration

133. The Programme Support Service initiated the development of a major UNDCP-wide financial monitoring system that will provide on-line, real-time financial and budgetary information on the activities of UNDCP at all required levels, both at headquarters and in field offices. The system will facilitate decision-making at the senior management and at the programmatic level, and assist in the evaluation of, and reporting on, activities undertaken by UNDCP. The reports prepared for submission to intergovernmental bodies included the revised medium-term plan for 1998-2001, as well as two sets of budget documents concerning the Fund of UNDCP, for use by the Commission.

134. During 1998, the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the Secretariat conducted an audit of UNDCP programme outputs for the biennium 1996-1997. Further audits throughout the biennium 1998-1999 were conducted on the following projects: "Technical assistance for subregional cooperation and inter-agency collaboration in East Asia (RAS/B36); "Interdiction and seizure capacity-building in Aeonian Province, China" (RAS/968); and "Training in prosecution and adjudication of drug offences and post-conviction asset forfeiture proceedings" (CAR/B95). The country office in Barbados was audited, and audits were planned during the latter part of 1999 for the offices in Peru and Uzbekistan. The findings of the audits conducted in 1998, together with recommendations and comments from UNDCP, were submitted for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-fourth session.

135. The Division of Administrative and Common Services of the United Nations Office at Vienna provided administrative services in financial and budgetary matters, human resources management and information technology, as well as in meeting general support needs.

136. UNDP provided administrative services required by UNDCP field offices. In accordance with the working arrangement between the two organizations, UNDP was responsible for recruitment and administration of local staff at the country offices, as well as for ensuring the administration of, and exercising approving authority over, the allotments of country offices, including local staff, travel, procurement and operating costs. Certifying authority over the allotments remain with the UNDCP representative.

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XI.15.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.99.XI.16.

[3] *Drug Abuse Rapid Situation Assessments and Responses*, ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime (Vienna, March 1999).

[4] The Drug Nexus in Africa, ODCCP Studies on Drugs and Crime (Vienna, March 1999).